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Application 10/620,155

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Preliminary amendment dated January 30, 2007

Attorney Docket P002.210

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 11 and ending on page 26, line 19 with the following amended paragraph.

Frits of the invention preferably have pore openings or mesh openings of a size in the range of about 5-100 μm , more preferably 10-100 μm , and still more preferably 15-50 μm , e.g., about 43 μm . The performance of the column is typically enhanced by the use of frits having pore or mesh openings sufficiently large so as to minimize the resistance to flow. The use of membrane screens as described herein typically provide this low resistance to flow and hence better flow rates, reduced back pressure and minimal distortion of the bed of extraction media. The pore or mesh openings of course should not be so large that they are unable to adequately contain the extraction media in the chamber.